**Accelerated water supply Programme and Minimum Needs Programme in Maharashtra**

8296. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has sought parity in the water supply costs norms of Accelerated Water Supply Programme and Minimum Needs Programme;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) what is Government response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To maintain uniformity in the water supply costs norms of Accelarated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Minimum Needs Programme (MNP).

(c) Powers have been delegated to the States/UT Governments for approval of the schemes upto the *per capita* cost ceiling as approved under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme.

**Lunar Eclipse**

8297. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lunar Eclipse occurring on April 3-4 1996 which will be visible in India has been shown as invisible in India by the India Meteorological Department in their annual publication. "The Indian Astronomical Ephemeris for 1995" which created a chaos among the users; if so; the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the publications of the "Inian Astronomical Ephemeris" and the Rashtriya Panchangs by the India Meteorological Department, now being delayed by about six months, resulting in the non-availability of advance astronomical data to the Panchang makers:

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken by Govt. for their timely publication; and

(d) how many States have since adopted correct system of astronomical calculations in declaring holidays in their States and what steps are being envisaged by Government to fulfil this objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes, Sir. This preliminary announcement was made on the basis of an international publication by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London. This was later found incorrect by India Meteorological Department (IMD) and a corrigendum was immediately circulated amongst the users of Indian Astronomical Ephemeris. As the eclipse is to occur in the year 1996, the details regarding its visibility over Indian will be published in the 1996 edition of Indian Astronomical Ephemeris.

(b) and (c): No, Sir. The "Indian Astronomical Ephemeris" (IAE) for 1995 was published in November, 1994 Astronomical data to the Panchang makers are made available well on advance on their request. All the thirteen language editions of Rashtriya Panchang have already been published this year.

(d) The dates of festivals reported in the Indian Astronomical Ephemeris (IAE) are determined on the basis of